

view of Nakano et al, US Patent No. 6,155,202.

Reconsideration of the rejections is requested for the following reasons.

The Examiner relies upon the primary reference of Yokogawa et al for showing a microstrip antenna 308 (Figs. 7 and 8) that is in discoidal form. However, as shown in Fig. 8 of the reference, there are four microstrip lines 307 respectively connected to each of the electrode magnetic wave radiation antenna 308, which is "divided into four" (see column 12, lines 44-48 of the reference). Therefore, the microstrip antenna 308 of Yokogawa et al does not comprise a discoidal electrode.

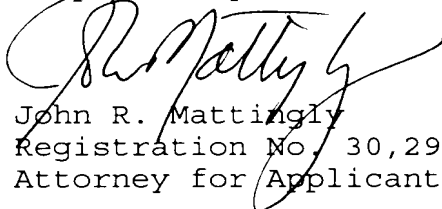
As set forth by Applicants on page 6, first paragraph, lines 3-18 of the specification, the electrode of the present invention is discoidal. That is, the electrode 3 of the present invention is not divided into four parts, as in Yokogawa et al.

Since Yokogawa et al do not disclose the antenna of the present invention which is set forth as comprising a discoidal electrode, the reference does not anticipate the independent claims. Further, since each of claims 2, 6-8, 35 and 36 are dependent claims, each of these claims is not anticipated by the reference. Accordingly, the 35 USC 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection of claims 4 and 9, Nakano et al is used to show a power supply provided in the form of a cone. However, claims 4 and 9 are dependent claims that depend from claim 1 as a base claim. Applicants assert that claim 1 is patentable over Yokogawa et al. Further, claims 4 and 9 are patentable over Yokogawa et al in view of Nakano et al because Nakano et al do not disclose an antenna that is set forth as comprising a discoidal electrode. Further, Nakano et al do not disclose a plasma etching apparatus, but rather a plasma processing apparatus for forming a high quality film. See column 4, lines 42-44 of the reference. Therefore, the combination of Yokogawa et al and Nakano et al is insufficient to render the invention set forth in claims 4 and 9 unpatentable under 35 USC 103, and accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested.

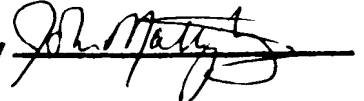
Respectfully submitted,


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MARKED UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS

8. (Amended) A dry etching apparatus according to claim
[5]1,

wherein said separation plate separates said chamber and
a second area where the pressure is higher than the pressure
in said chamber,

said antenna is a microstrip antenna formed in said
second area;

a coil outside of said chamber; and

wherein the microstrip antenna resonates TM01 mode.

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9. (Amended) A dry etching apparatus according to claim
[5]1,

wherein said separation plate separates said chamber and
a second area where the pressure is higher than the pressure
in said chamber,

said antenna is a microstrip antenna formed in said
second area;

a coil outside of said chamber; and

wherein a power supply provides Ultra High Frequency
power to said microstrip antenna in a form of a cone.